



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

March 13, 2024

### Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

#### Next Steps in our Journey - *Latest leadership plans and decisions*

Hi friends,

We talked last month about good listening... and by the way, I'm still looking for more entries on the white board in the hall – the one that asks what makes good listening. Be brave and add yours!

At the next peace party (March 24th Palm Sunday) **we will talk about bad listening!** In the nonviolent communication world it's called "communication that blocks compassion." We don't listen badly on purpose most of the time, but it helps to recognize when we are just not able to be a good listener.

For example, I might be going through my day really needing a sense of accomplishment, and then I meet a friend who needs to talk. "Oh!" Says my subconscious. "I can accomplish something here!" And when my friend has shared for a bit, I jump in and tell my friend what she should do to solve her problem. OOPS! My friend might politely end the conversation and move on, disappointed with the interaction. She wanted a listener, not a solver.

When we can't listen well, because we're feeling poorly or irritated about something else, one good option is to say that out loud. "I'm sorry that I can't listen well right now. Could we find another time to meet, and I'll do my best then?"

I have a book chapter to share with anyone interested in reading ahead. Just ask Sue or me.

Blessings! Pastor Kristine

### Worship/Nurture/Vision News:

- Pray for this **Sunday's leadership**: Deryll Amstutz is planning our worship with the Luke focus. Leaders will include Doug Bartel and Jan Amstutz. We will also see an updated video about Main Street Ministries, one of the three ministries that we are highlighting this month for special giving.
- **TONIGHT**– Remember our **prayer and singing time** from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the chapel.

- **Thanks** to those who practiced after worship last Sunday for a **choir on Easter Sunday** morning. (# 266 in the older blue Hymnal – “They Crucified my Savior”) We will continue this for the next two weeks. It is **not** too late to join in! If you want to borrow a Hymnal for home practice, we have plenty!
- Worship/Nurture/Vision Team meets next week at **1 pm on Thursday, March 21**. Share your ideas and be in prayer!

### **Verse for Pondering:** Luke 18:37 (NIV)

“Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.” (- Jesus)  
*(Don't be vulture food – stay alive! – Deryll A.)*

### **Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers**

- Pray for one another through our directory! This week we focus prayers for
- Pray for the wedding coming up this Saturday and life together for the rest of their lives!
- Pray for our **next focus group and Peace Party**. May God open our hearts and minds to hear His leading.
- Consider **special giving** this month to Main Street Ministries, CORE Communities and/or Hillsboro Area Ministerial Alliance.
- **WDC:** Pray for WDC representatives traveling to attend Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council meetings this week.

### **FMC Upcoming Events**

- **Choir for Easter Sunday:** Stay after worship for 10 minutes at the front of the sanctuary for practice. It is #266 in our blue “Hymnal” worship book, *“They crucified my Savior”*.
- **Tonight - 6:30 – 7:30 pm in our chapel** – Prayer, sharing & singing time!
- **Office Schedules:**
  - **This week:** Pastor Kristine: Wed. 3/13 and Thurs. 3/14, 11:30 – 8 pm. Office Administrator, Sue, will be in as usual T-F mornings.
  - **Next week:** Pastor Kristine: Tuesday 3/19 and Thursday 3/21, 11:30 -8pm. Sue will be in the office the mornings of Monday, 3/18, Tuesday, 3/19 and Thursday, 3/21. The office will be closed on Wednesday and Friday.

- Next Tuesday, March 19 – **Stewardship of Finance Focus Group – ONLY 6:30 pm**. Come share your dreams and ideas! Talk to Pastor Kristine if you have ideas but are unable to come at this time.
- **Peace Party** carry-in lunch on Sunday, March 24. No better way to celebrate Palm Sunday!
- **Easter Sunday:**
  - Sunrise Service at 6:45 am at Mark and Sandy Hiebert's place. (931 140<sup>th</sup> – ¾ mile west of Indigo/"13 mile road")
  - Light Brunch in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. Everyone is invited. Those who would like to bring food are asked to consider egg dishes, breads and fruits. Not everyone needs to bring food however. Juice and coffee will be provided here.
  - Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am. Pastor Kristine will be preaching.

## Community News:

- **Spring Break** for all Hillsboro schools this week! (Find a student to love!)
- Ministry idea: **American Red Cross** will offer a training in Marion on March 16 on the roles and responsibilities for opening, operating and closing a shelter during a disaster. Check out the flyer on our bulletin board if you are interested.

## Mennonite News:

- Next Wednesday, March 20, meet at the Hillsboro park at the Statue of Liberty at 4 pm for a **walk to pray for the people in Gaza**.
- **Winter Coats and Jackets** still being accepted for March 24<sup>th</sup> to be used on Palm Sunday and then sent on to refugees in need.
- **Bible Lectures at Bethel College** with César García, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference, and Sandra Báez, pastor and executive assistant to the general secretary; Sunday, 3/17: 7 p.m., *Administration Building chapel*; Monday 3/18: 11 a.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*. The overall topic for the lectures is "Contemporary Ecclesiologies."
- **Tabor Mennonite Church** is having a fundraising dinner. Check out the poster on our bulletin board.
- **Camp Mennoscah will be putting the dam back in on March 24 at 2 pm**. Everyone is welcome to help or watch (if young ages).

- **FYI: MCC Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale** will be in Hutchinson, Kansas April 12 – 13 this year.
- **Western District Women in Mission:** Edimental Gardening for Every Growing Space, featuring Renata Goossen at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton KS on Friday, April 19. The schedule is: 5 p.m - 6 p.m. Browse and purchase plants from Renata's Plant Bus. Bring a salad to share for supper to start at 6 p.m.. The evening program, 6:30 - 7:30, will feature music by Prairie Highway and Renata speaking on her topic of edimental gardening, plants that are both edible and ornamental. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details about the evening schedule and our other WDWM activities.
- **Everence® March Workshop: Social Security and retirement income**

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, March 21, starting at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions.

The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).